

*was received by a letter  
from the Author. 8135.6.22  
K. Hancock*

Wellingborough, Dec. 3, 1792.

## B R I T O N S,

A N D

## FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN,

**A**T the time when the busy spirits of faction are disseminating the principles of rebellion throughout the land, it is the duty of every good christian, and it is the duty and interest of every loyal subject, to stand forth in the defence of his King, and his Country, and to contribute all that lies in his power towards the support of Government and the peace of the Kingdom.

*the* With this view it is, that the writer of this addresses his fellow-countrymen:—and it is with the hope and expectation that they will no longer remain deaf to the plain language of truth.—When the fire approaches our dwellings, we must either play the engine, or perish in ~~our~~ flames: the latter we need not dread, if, vigilant and active, we do but crush the serpents, while they only hiss.—Let us not then, my friends, delay one moment; let us instantly advance, and destroy the fiend, ere it rears to maturity it's infernal young.—The greatest difficulty



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culty we shall find in discharging this duty effectually will be, to distinguish between friends and foes; for many will greet us with a smile whose hearts are embittered with the poison of the asp;—and the most disagreeable part of this duty will be, the detecting and dragging to justice those with whom we may have been in the habits of acquaintance; these, indeed, to the true lovers of christianity and good neighbourhood, may be grating to the heart;—but, my friends, when duty to our King and Country, and even Self-preservation, call aloud for our interference and exertion, we must sacrifice all private interest at the altar of public good. —Peace, unanimity, and friendship, among brethren of different sects, is the doctrine of reason and religion, and what, beyond all doubt, ought to be cultivated throughout every town and village in the kingdom; but alas! when this grand desideratum is not to be had without the shipwreck of a good conscience, without countenancing by our company the discontented and malicious, we must withdraw ourselves from all intercourse and society with them;—nay, we must do more, if they will not have peace, we must lift up against them the arm of justice. Here mistake me not, my fellow-countrymen, I mean not, “by lifting up the arm of justice,” that you should take upon yourselves the punishment of the discontented and rebellious; no, God forbid! all that I mean is, that you should be ready and active to assist the officers of justice; that you should discover to them the haunts and retreats of traitors; and that

that you should, upon all emergencies, be willing and prepared to quell all tumults and insurrections; and to protect the persons, the houses, and the properties of all loyal, peaceable, and faithful subjects.—These are duties you are now called upon to discharge; these are duties which both your religion and country bind closely upon your consciences.—Eternal obligations to Almighty God, for having given you birth under so excellent a government as that which your country, by his blessing, now enjoys, demands from you every return of active gratitude.—Compare, my fellow-countrymen, your own peace and plenty with that miserable state of anarchy and confusion, by which other nations are distracted; and then what must you think of those men, who wish to deprive you of of your present blessings of peace and plenty, and plunge you headlong into all the miseries of civil discord.

Your country has enjoyed, for a century, a government, which, like a fond and careful parent, watches over the persons, the properties, and the religion of all it's subjects.—A government which, with strict impartiality, administers justice to the lowest, as well as the highest subject in the land;—which equally protects with it's sword the cottage of the poor labourer, and the mansion of the rich citizen;—which allows no man, let his wealth be ever so great, or his rank ever so high, to injure, with impunity, either in person or property, the meanest beggar in the land;—which secures to the poor the due & lawful



lawful wages of their labour ; and which affords to the industrious and sober, when under the afflictions of disease or poverty, every relief and assistance that the calls of humanity and justice can lay claim to—Behold those many noble edifices, which the rich and great, at their own expence, have built and endowed, solely for the use and benefit of their sick and disabled fellow-countrymen !—These are the standing monuments of a compassionate and liberal nobility and gentry ! These are the living pillars of the greatness of our nation !—Behold again, my fellow-countrymen, how, under the fostering hand of our excellent government, agriculture has flourished, and the farmer has been blessed with affluence.—How trade has extended itself far and wide over the whole world, has enriched your country, has raised it's servants to the highest honours in the state, and has rendered the name of Great Britain dreaded and respected by the four quarters of the globe.

These are the blessings we now enjoy ; these are the blessings that foreign incendiaries, leagued with the internal enemies of our Church and State, are, with all their might, endeavouring to deprive us of. They wish to sow amongst us the seeds of discord, that they may reap the harvest of confusion.—They wish to throw down all government and order, that they may the more easily push themselves into places of power and trust : their aim is to dethrone our gracious Sovereign, whose reign has been characterized by every endeavour to promote the arts and sciences

ences of his country; by every laudable exertion to afford relief to his poor & necessitous subjects; & by his own private examples and public edicts, to invite his people to every due observance of morality and religion.—The throne of this our gracious Monarch they would level with the spade of Republicanism, and plant upon it those very weeds and thorns, which, under the tyrant usurpation of Cromwell, choaked every flower in the land.—Oh! my fellow-countrymen, how greatly did your ancestors rejoice, when the Almighty, having satisfied his just vengeance upon a guilty land, was pleased to issue forth his irresistible fiat, and to order light to spring forth from darkness, order from confusion, and subordination from the jumbled atoms of Chaos, Equality.—Republicans and Levellers are now practising upon you, my friends, almost the very same devices by which your ancestors were, in former days, most unhappily deluded.—They tell you that you have not Liberty, and yet sadly convince us that they have Liberty from their free choice of evil. They tell you all men ought to live upon an Equality, and so give the lie to God, who has declared that all men shall be dependent one upon another, and has enforced in his gospel the precept of obedience to the higher powers, as a christian duty, the breach of which you must answer for hereafter at his tribunal.—Beware then, my fellow-countrymen, and let not these Republicans and Levellers plunge you into all the miseries of desolation and civil war! Be not so simple, so credulous, as to be led away from your duty, and from  
your

your interest, by any of the secret wiles and insinuations of these evil-designing men.—With a jealous eye mark those persons who espouse the writings of Payne, that prince of villains, that choice spirit of the devil. Whosoever puts his book into your hand. He is your enemy; shun him as you would the basking snake.—Be firm, my countrymen, be firm and unanimous, and prove yourselves worthy of the name of Englishmen and Christians!—Make a proper return to Almighty God for all the invaluable privileges and blessings you now enjoy, by coming forward openly and manfully in the defence of your Church and Government, in the defence of your King and Country, in the defence of your trade, arts, and manufactures, and, in a word, in the defence of your lives and properties.—All these are now aimed at by French incendiaries, by the partizans of Payne, that scourge of mankind.—If, my countrymen, your King and Country call you forth to assist them in repelling the hostile attacks, or revenging the insidious insults offered to our nation by a foreign enemy, or in crushing inward rebellion, stand forth with cheerfulness and vigour, and make your enemies tremble, who hitherto, through your leniency and supineness have dared openly to abuse all that Englishmen ought to hold dear, and have even, in defiance of the laws of the land, associated together for the avowed purpose of destroying that Constitution, which has stood the test of a century, and which still would increase the glory and happiness of Great Britain, was it not continually



ally exposed to the rage and malice of it's own rebellious subjects.---To uphold and support then this noble fabric of our ancestors, all ranks of citizens are invited, by the true love they bear their King and Country; and if any thing more forcible can prevail with each and every Christian, it is the cries of humanity and justice, which dread the bloody and rapacious arms of savage rebellion.---Cause then, my countrymen, the British Lion to shake her mane, and all the foreign foes of Great Britain will tremble, and all her in-bred traitors, robbers and murderers will, in a moment, hide their snaky heads.

Arouse then, Britons, and fly to the posts of danger and of honour---Delay not a moment to destroy all inflammatory pamphlets, to discountenance all seditious harangues, and to expel from your company all those who dare to speak evil of your King, your Church, your Laws, and your Liberty.---If you do but act thus, no dangers need you fear, the dark clouds of horror will be dispersed, and Great Britain, through the loyal and manly conduct of her sons, will again shine forth in all her wonted lustre.

In order then, my countrymen, that you may effectually discharge the duties I have all along advised, and earnestly exhorted you to, let me recommend to you the following methods, already practised by our loyal and peaceable brethren in the city of London.

1st. To

1st. To form associations in every Market-Town, in order to assist the civil magistrates.

2d. To offer rewards for discovering all seditious people.

3d. To be ready and willing to assist with your money, and your persons, the councils and armies of your King and Country.

And 4th. To admonish all people of their danger, and to invite them to maintain peace and quiet in their respective parishes and neighbourhoods.

That Almighty God may bless all our honest endeavours to bring the disobedient back to their duty; and that, under the all-saving shadow of his wings, our country may be preserved from blood and rapine, are the fervent prayers and wishes of,

The public's most devoted servant,

*Wm. L. Fancourt.*

*Recd. unexceptionable - if not  
so in the last Page*

*J. J.*

